

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

## SHERIDAN A. LADD FOUND DEAD BY HIS OWN HAND NEAR UNOCCUPIED QUARRY

Body Discovered By Chance Passerby This Morning—Drank Poison, Then in Agony of His Death Struggle Strove to Hasten End By Gashing His Wrist With Knife.

For 15 Years Electrician of Police Department, He Resigned Recently Rather Than Become Patrolman, and Had Begun Prosperous Lunch Room Near Arms Works.

Sheridan A. Ladd, for 15 years, until last month, electrician of the Bridgeport police department, and of late proprietor of the Courtland, a prosperous lunch room in Boston avenue at the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., was found dead at 9:30 this morning, a suicide, near an abandoned quarry at Park and North avenues.

There was a deep gash in the left wrist and the partially drained contents of a flask in which some roach powder had been mixed with coffee indicate that he sought to end his life in business he was considered to be on the way to financial success.

How long the body remained in the secluded spot where by chance it was found to-day is as yet not definitely established though Medical Examiner S. M. Garlick has been told that Ladd was seen at 10 o'clock yesterday morning purchasing a package of roach powder in the drug store of Alphonse Ruell, in Lexington avenue. The body of Ladd was discovered at 9:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon by a laborer living at 134 North Washington avenue who while passing near Hubbell's quarry between Oak street and North avenue recalled having seen a man apparently intoxicated in the bushes yesterday afternoon at 2:30. Peering through some parted foliage he saw the same man stretched stark upon the ground. He at once telephoned to the police and the city ambulance carrying Dr. J. F. Govino hastened to the spot. The body was recognized as that of Ladd and after notification to the medical examiner was conveyed to the Cullinan & Mullins Morgue.

Ladd lay upon his back, one knee high in the air and the hands above the head. Blood was observed on the left coat-sleeve and upon one knee of the light colored trousers of the well kept suit he wore. The flask in which some roach powder had apparently been mixed with coffee, was nearly empty. Close observation of the body showed the left wrist had been cut deeply for a distance of about one inch. The veins which had not been severed. A pocket-knife was found in his clothing.

Investigation made by the police tends to show that Ladd was seen in the death struggle by Govino yesterday afternoon shortly after 2 o'clock. Govino was passing when he saw a man rolling around on the ground. The description of the clothing worn by the person seen yesterday tallies with that worn by Ladd.

Govino yesterday paid no attention to the man even though he was groaning for many intoxicated persons seek the exclusion of the quarters and are a familiar sight to passers-by.

It has been further learned that Ladd, seemingly in the best of spirits, entered the Ruell pharmacy yesterday morning and there met Joseph McMahon, a clerk whom he knew well. In conversation with McMahon it is said that Ladd remarked that he was spending the morning in an effort to secure a rent for his married sister in Meriden. He said that he wanted some roach powder for the house and purchased a tin of powder, the base of which is corrosive sublimate, a deadly poison, though slow in its action.

To McMahon he said that he was never more prosperous than he had been since entering the lunch room business, and he had nothing to worry about. He left the place after joking about trivial matters and was last seen going in the direction of the quarry.

What transpired in the mind of the deceased after leaving the store is not known but it is believed that he may have swallowed the powder mixed with coffee shortly after noon and while suffering intense agony tried to inflict a mortal wound on himself with his knife. In this he probably failed through his weakened condition.

Dr. Garlick, who viewed the body at the morgue, withheld his finding on the cause of death until he had made a more careful investigation of the contents of the bottle found beside Ladd.

At the Courtland restaurant this morning it was said by Frank Yank, who lived with Ladd at 243 Sheridan street, that the last seen of him there was on Thursday noon. He had not been to the restaurant since that time.

Because of his long absence it was necessary to procure the services of a cousin, Henry Ladd, about the restaurant yesterday.

When news of the death reached (Continued on Page 2)

**WEATHER FORECAST**

Fair tonight and probably Sunday; cooler. Moderate west winds.

## GILL SLATED FOR IMPORTANT POST IN PHILIPPINES

Former Assessor Here May Supervise Insular Manufacturing Census.

(Special to The Farmer.) Washington, Sept. 11.—Lawrence J. Gill, of Bridgeport, Conn., who has qualified as an expert in the manufacturers' census of the United States government, has been tendered an important post in the Philippines, according to unofficial reports here today. The position carries a salary of \$3,500, with an allowance for expenses.

Mr. Gill, according to the report, will be given an opportunity of supervising the census of manufactures in the Philippines. Until official action is taken, Mr. Gill will not discuss the matter.

Gill entered the department of the census as a special investigator, for a two months' term, last February. He was stationed at the capital. His work was so successful that his term was prolonged indefinitely, and he was assigned to supervise the manufacture census of Fairfield county, which he completed early in the summer, returning again to new duties in Washington.

Gill's training in property values was acquired chiefly through his connection with the city government here. He was first a clerk, then a member of the board of assessors, for several terms, on which his services were deemed valuable. He is a native of Bridgeport, and for many years has been the leader of the Democratic Party in the Ninth district.

## FRENCH LINES IN ARGONNE CHECK GERMAN ATTACKS

Paris, Sept. 11.—The violent fighting in the Argonne on Wednesday and Thursday was the result of the efforts of the army of the Crown Prince to break through the French lines. The attempt was made with powerful artillery and a large number of troops. It apparently has had no appreciable result. The Germans were able to penetrate the French trenches on a portion of the front but were checked immediately. They renewed their attacks again and again but with such severe losses that they gave up the effort.

This offensive movement, it is said on good authority, has not modified the situation in the Argonne. In fact the Germans have suffered greater losses, according to the French official figures, than they have inflicted.

The army of the Crown Prince has attempted several times in previous months to break through the French front but so far has scored no definite success. The statement is made here that this army has lost upwards of 300,000 men, one corps alone losing 100,000 from the ranks, which are being continually depleted and refilled.

## Nude Bathers At Seaside Startle Visitors to Park

The Adam and Eve style of bathing started Seaside Park visitors yesterday morning and there met Joseph McMahon, a clerk whom he knew well. In conversation with McMahon it is said that Ladd remarked that he was spending the morning in an effort to secure a rent for his married sister in Meriden. He said that he wanted some roach powder for the house and purchased a tin of powder, the base of which is corrosive sublimate, a deadly poison, though slow in its action.

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## BERNSTORFF SAYS HE'S NEVER USED MESSAGE BEARER

Denies That Dumba's Agent Had Been in Employ of the German Embassy.

"NOT SAFE," OPINION OF BERLIN'S REPLY

Dr. Dumba and Secretary Leave For Summer Embassy at Lenox, Mass.

New York, Sept. 11.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, emphatically denied to-day that he had used or attempted to use James F. J. Archibald, the American messenger of Dr. Constantin T. Dumba, Austrian ambassador, as a message bearer to Berlin.

"In view of reported assertions by several newspapers that I sent messages to my government by Mr. Archibald," said Count Von Bernstorff, "I wish to state that I never gave Mr. Archibald a single paper or anything else. I thought I made this plain in Washington but feel a repetition is now needed.

"I did not attempt to use Mr. Archibald as a messenger chiefly because I did not think it safe and he certainly did not prove safe."

Ambassador Dumba, whose recall has been requested by President Wilson, left here to-day for the summer embassy at Lenox, Mass.

Dr. Dumba was accompanied by his secretary, Prince Zu Hohenlohe. Dr. Dumba spent several hours with Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, last night. At the conclusion of this meeting both of the diplomats declined to say anything regarding President Wilson's action.

Early today, however, Count Von Bernstorff issued a statement denying that he had been connected in any way with the messages carried by James F. J. Archibald, Dr. Dumba's messenger.

Dr. Dumba's secretary, before he left, said that the ambassador was quite reconciled to the request that he be recalled and that he was forced to maintain silence because of the position he occupied. After he had reached Lenox and had been able to think the matter over, the secretary added, Dr. Dumba would issue a statement denying his action.

## UNDERSEA BOATS OF GERMANS GET MERCHANT SHIPS

French and British Vessels Are Sunk By Submarine Blockaders.

London, Sept. 11.—The British steamship Cornubia, 1,736 tons gross, has been sunk. Her crew was saved. The fishing smack Boynerie, of Lowestoft, also has been sunk. One member of her crew was injured.

The Cornubia, a 350 foot steamship owned in Falmouth was last reported as sailing from Cardiff, August 13 for Newport, Eng.

Paris, Sept. 11.—A despatch to the Havre Agency from Algiers says that the steamer Ville De Mostaganem has been sunk by gunfire from a German submarine. Sixteen members of the crew, three of them wounded, have been picked up.

## Petrograd Reports Taking 5,000 Men

London, Sept. 11.—Another success on the south Galician front, resulting in the capture of 5,000 men, is announced by the Russians. Even the Petrograd newspapers, however, admit that this section of the fighting area is not of the most vital importance, since Field Marshal Von Mackensen is still hovering along the line of minor fronts which form the last remaining defenses in the way of complete control of the railway system desired by the invaders.

The Russians state that the initiative in the isolated engagements on the southern wing is gradually passing into their hands. Nearer to center of the line, Von Mackensen is still pushing his way vigorously through the Pripiet marshes toward Pinc. North and south of his headquarters strong offensive movements have been developed near Grodno and on the road to Rovno.

On the other fronts there is not as much action as in the east, so far as the official reports indicate. Sharp fighting is in progress along the Austro-Hungarian battle line but no fresh news has been received from the Vosges and the Germans have launched heavy attacks against French trenches.

The only new feature of the near eastern diplomatic puzzle is the assertion from Bulgarian sources that she feels her past neutrality is a sufficient reward for Turkish concessions.

**CURTIS & CURTIS SUE**

**JAPANESE TISSUE MILLS**

Papers have been filed in the common pleas court in an action brought by Curtis & Curtis of this city against the Japanese Tissue Mills of Holyoke, Mass. It is claimed that the Holyoke concern owes the plaintiffs \$227.35. The suit is returnable to the October term.

## "ARABIC" NOTE MAY DEAL WITH CASE OF ORDUNA

Communication To Gerard Now Understood To Refer To Cunarder.

STEAMER WAS CHASED AND SHELLED BY SUB.

Believed Germans will Claim Justification For Imperilling Americans.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The note delivered to Ambassador Gerard by the German foreign office yesterday, which was believed to be a supplemental communication in the sinking of the Arabic, now is understood to be a note on the unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the Cunarder Orduna several weeks ago.

The note had not been received in Washington early to-day and the state department had no information of its whereabouts. In circles close to the embassy, however, it was said the note concerned the Orduna and that when its contents were known it probably would be found that the German government claimed some sort of justification for the attack on the liner.

The Orduna was chased and shelled by a submarine after a torpedo had missed her stern by a few yards on July 9. She was on a trip to the United States and carried as passengers 22 Americans. Ambassador Gerard made some inquiries by direction of Washington and the German note now on its way is understood to be the result.

What effect an attempt to justify the Orduna case would have on the situation already delicate by Germany's stand in the Arabic, was the subject of much speculation today among officials who regarded the atmosphere as far from favorable.

## SCANDAL IN CONTRACTS FOR BRIDGE

Local Contractors Eliminated Through Juggling of Bids, is Talk Around City Hall—Litigation Threatened.

The Stratford avenue bridge contract is the subject of much discussion in City Hall, and among local contractors. It is being quietly said that the tinkering with bids, and the re-opening of the question has resulted in the elimination of local bidders, whose bids, it is claimed, were low, if properly construed.

The contracts have not yet been drawn, and are not expected to be in readiness before Monday or Tuesday.

Whether or not the city will be involved in litigation, through the letting of the contract, could not be ascertained today.

Toole & Sunderlin, Bridgeport contractors, are said to be very much dissatisfied with the outcome of the bidding.

## CHALLENGER WILL ENTER ANNAPOLIS ACADEMY TUESDAY

Bridgeport Boy Qualifies For Place Both Mentally and Physically.

Welcome news was received from Washington to-day by Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Challenger of 985 Noble avenue that their son, Harold, had passed all his examinations and will enter the Naval Academy at Annapolis when it opens next Tuesday.

Harold Challenger, who was nominated by Congressman Jeremiah Donovan passed his mental examinations some time ago. He passed the physical examinations to-day. He was born in Bridgeport, is a graduate of the Bridgeport High school, class of 1914 and popular with a host of young people in this city.

His father for many years has been in the news business in Crescent avenue and he is one of the oldest members of the board of education in point of service.

## METHODIST CHURCH WILL BE REOPENED TO-MORROW

The auditorium of The First Methodist church has been entirely redecorated and will be opened to the public to-morrow. It is to be a homecoming day to the congregation. This is the original Methodist church in this section and during all its one hundred and twenty-six years of history it has not had so large a membership nor been more united in its work.

## CRANE CO. STRIKER IS FREED IN CITY COURT; POLICE MADE MISTAKE IN ARRESTING HIM

EIGHTEEN QUIT IN H. O. CANFIELD CO. IN WAGE DISPUTE

Strikers Claim They Have Not Received Same Treatment as Other Workers.

Because, they said, they hadn't received the increased wage that was allowed other workers in the shop, 18 employees of one department of the H. O. Canfield Co. went on strike at 8:30 o'clock this morning.

"Most of the workmen received 25 per cent increase," one of the strikers said this morning. "I got an increase of three cents a week. What percentage is that?"

The men who walked out are machine workers. They are employed in the room that has the highest average wage.

When they received their pay envelopes yesterday, the men said, they found their wages increased from three cents to 50 cents a week. The strikers had received a 25 per cent increase. This morning they sent a committee to the foreman and they were informed that they received the highest wages of any of the workers and that inasmuch as A. H. Canfield is out of town, nothing could be done about it now.

The machine workers quit after that. They say the girls on the inspecting jobs will have to quit by Monday.

According to the strikers, none of them has been with the company less than three years and many have been there 15 years. Their work is hard to learn, and is skilled, they said. But whereas they were the highest paid, the other are now receiving more they assert.

## THOUSAND OUT IN NEW HAVEN PLANT

New Haven, Sept. 11.—Men and women employed in the shops of the National Folding Box & Paper Co. in the Fair Haven section of the city, left their work at 9 this morning almost without warning. There are about 1,000 employees, practically all of whom went out. Most of them marched into the city proper to hold a meeting to formulate a demand for increased wages and better working conditions.

## Torrington Strikers Turn Down Proposals; Are Firm in Demands

Torrington, Sept. 11.—The \$50 striking employees of the Hendey Machine Company today unanimously rejected the company's compromise offer of a ten per cent. increase in wages, a 55 hour week and time and a quarter for overtime. They still stand for their demand for a 15 per cent. increase in wages, an eight hour day and time and a half for overtime.

## Coroner Phelan Takes Ante-Mortem Statement From John Fennello

For the first time since posting of an act by the general assembly, recorded by Coroner J. J. Phelan has conducted what might be called an inquest before an injured man had died. Yesterday afternoon he went to Greenwich and took an ante-mortem statement of John Fennello, aged 35, an Italian who was severely burned by electricity and who is not expected to recover.

Fennello was working unloading Amiesite from flat cars in the Greenwich yards. They are low wires there heavily charged with electricity. He had a crow bar over his shoulder when he climbed over a box car to go to another flat car and at that time the bar came in contact with the live wire overhead. A sheet of flame burned him fearfully about the body. It also burned the clothes from a man who was following him and severely burned his flesh. The other man is expected to recover.

A recent act of the general assembly orders coroners to take ante-mortem statements in such cases rather than wait for weeks, if an injured man lingers, and then endeavor to hold an investigation after the witnesses have been scattered. This is the first time the coroner has acted under the new law which was in effect August 1 and Coroner Phelan is the first official in the state to act in accordance with the new law.

## TWELVE DEATHS ARE REPORTED AT REUNION.

Thomaston, Conn., Sept. 11.—The second Connecticut Heavy Artillery held its reunion here today. There were 12 deaths during the year. Chas. Morse, of this place, was elected president, and Mrs. Dwight C. Kilbourne, of Litchfield, was chosen secretary to take the place of her husband, now deceased, who long served in the same capacity.

Thirty-five football candidates reported to Captain Glick and Head Coach Rush at Princeton, N. J.

Judge Bartlett Enters Nolle in Case of Man Alleged to Have Been Implicated in Violence at Plant Last Week—Many Witnesses Prove His Alibi.

## INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN FACTS OF CLASH OF POLICE AND STRIKERS

State Federation of Labor Has Not Joined Central Labor Union's Action Towards Mayor's Impeachment, Wires Stremlau—Strikers of Many Plants Unite For General Picketing.

Judge Frederic A. Bartlett dealt out justice to John Manden, 176 Railroad avenue, a Crane Co. striker this morning when he nolleed the charges of assault on Joseph Carese, a fellow worker. Manden had been haled to police headquarters by an officer as a result of the clash between the police and the Crane strikers last week.

Seven employees of the Crane Co. appeared and testified that Manden was not near the scene of disturbance and that the police had made a mistake in arresting him.

Judge Bartlett's decision is the first of what is expected to be a series of vindications of strikers whose treatment in the city court has been deplored by labor leaders. An effort is being made to have the case of the Salt's Co. striker, who went to jail for four months, re-opened. Another indication of the better consideration being given the workmen, is the fact that the Crane striker, Tony Moskowsky's bond has been reduced and he has appealed his long jail sentence, owing to the fact that he was furnished with counsel by the American Federation of Labor.

James E. Roche said this morning the legal investigator of the American Federation of Labor has not yet arrived here, but in the meantime facts are being collected for his use.

While the A. F. of L. is waiting its investigator the Bridgeport Central Labor Union and the State Federation of Labor are making a rigid inquiry into the trouble that occurred at the Crane Co.

The first action by the State Federation was the visit here yesterday of Julius Stremlau, the president, and R. C. Cunningham, the secretary. They received the mayor's side of the case.

Following their cordial reception by the mayor yesterday, President Stremlau sent a telegram to Wilson this morning notifying him that no official action has been taken by the Federation looking toward impeaching him.

Labor leaders said today that no action would be taken by the State Federation on that matter immediately and that, while the attitude of Wilson toward labor was freely and caustically discussed in an informal manner at the convention, immediate action was ordered merely on the investigation of the Crane trouble.

In the meantime the Bridgeport Central Labor Union has not forgotten what has happened to their protest to the common council. The members are awaiting the result of the Crane investigation in which it may be shown that the police received their orders from Wilson, and then, united with the State Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor, effective action is planned.

An extensive system of picketing at every factory where a strike is on, will begin Monday morning. Either last night or to-day, committees were appointed from every department in every plant where there is a strike, and these will institute a battle to break down the opposition of the manufacturers.

"We're going at this thing in earnest," Mrs. Mary Scully, organizer of the A. F. of L., said this morning. "The pickets are receiving their instructions and we will have every worker out of the factories."

The importation of strike breakers causes the action. The strike breakers will soon be on strike, according to the labor leaders.

William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists came to this city today to interest himself in the attempts to settle strikes.

The patternmakers of the Crane Co., 28 in all, received an order this morning from the New York offices of their union, instructing them to return to work Monday.

Not a concession has been received by the patternmakers, according to James E. Roche, chairman of the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor.

The return of the patternmakers will mean a conflict of authority between the A. F. of L., and the patternmakers, who are known as "the aristocrats of labor." An attempt was made this morning by Mr. Roche to ascertain the reason for the interference, but Business Agent Mulholland, of the New York office of the patternmakers, was not to be reached.

The H. O. Canfield Co. machine room workers quit this morning, claiming that they hadn't received the wage increase accorded the other employees.

Fred C. Bolam, organizer of the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers is attempting today to arrange a conference with Major Walter G. Penfield of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. Twelve bayonet straighteners, who are allied with the blacksmiths trade, demanded more wages yesterday and they were discharged. If Penfield is obdurate as usual, it is understood, higher officials will be sought to settle the matter.

The Salt's Textile Co. strikers are awaiting overtures from the company. "The company," T. H. McMahon, organizer declares, "has said it will not meet with a committee of strikers. All the men affected are strikers, so what can be done?"

The Star Shirt Co. will attempt to open its factory Mon-

(Continued on Page Two.)